

Prayer

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together in a prayer position. The hands are positioned in the lower center of the frame, with fingers interlaced. A strong, diagonal beam of light from the upper left corner illuminates the hands and the clasped fingers, creating a dramatic contrast with the deep shadows. The person is wearing a dark, textured garment, possibly a robe or sweater, which is visible in the lower right. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the hands and the light.

3. Commanded to Pray

I Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

Meaning: God desires for His children to communicate with Him. Matthew 6:8 says, "...**your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him**" yet, He commands us to pray. Look at the following commands to pray: Romans 12:12, "...continuing instant in prayer;.." Luke 18:1, "...**men ought always to pray,..**" Colossians 4:2, "Continue in prayer," Luke 21:36, "**Watch ye therefore, and pray always.**"

Application: The question is asked, how can one "pray without ceasing"? There are two possible explanations. First, live in a conscious awareness of God's presence. We should be so close to God that talking to Him is second nature. Whether praying alone or in a crowd, God is acknowledged continually throughout each day. Secondly, praying without ceasing means to never have a break in our pattern of prayer.

Other Verses for Study: Isaiah 55:6; Jeremiah 33:3; Matthew 6:9; 7:7; John 4:23; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6; James 4:2

1. We should live in a conscious awareness of what?

2. There should never be a time in our lives characterized by _____.

3. Write out a verse that commands us to pray.

"Prayer at stated times is good and right; we will never outgrow the need of it while we remain on earth. But this kind of prayer must be supported and perfected by the habit of constant, unspoken prayer."